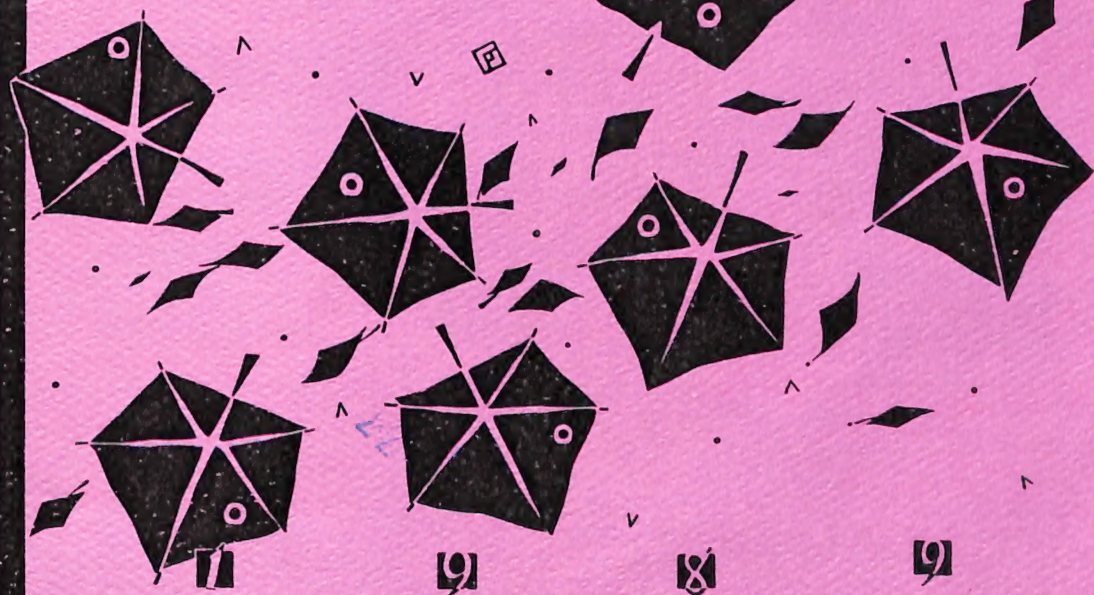


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The Affirmation Newsletter is printed four times a year. Deadline for the Winter issue is on **November 1**. All articles must be received by this date in order to be printed in the Winter issue. Opinions and comments are welcome.

Mailing address is:
Affirmation Newsletter
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, Illinois 60204

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NOTE: After Nov 1, 1989, the 312 area code will be divided into two codes, 312 will remain for the city of Chicago only. All other cities and towns will have a new area code 708. Please make note of this.

Affirmation Spokespersons

Judy Cayot

Albany, California

Randy Miller

Washington, DC



Coordinating Committee

Marcia K. Knight

Riverdale, Maryland

Maggie Roe

Denver, Colorado

Roger Kruse

Mesa, Arizona

Gloria B. Soliz

San Mateo, California

Andy Miller

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Anonymous Member
Dallas, Texas

Anonymous Member
Kansas City, Missouri

Annette Oliver

Evanston, Illinois



Individuals whose names appear in this newsletter reflect the diversity among all God's people. Some are Christian, while others are not. Some are gay/lesbian persons, while others are not.

AFFIRMATION NEWSLETTER

Fall '89



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Affirmation: United Methodist for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

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Affirmation Fall Meeting to be held in Windy City

The National Fall Affirmation meeting will be held at Hemenway United Methodist Church (the newest RC), 933 Chicago Ave., Evanston, IL, a suburb just north of Chicago, on Sept. 15-17. The meeting's main theme and title is "Envisioning Our Future." Part of the agenda will be taken from the document that the Long Range Planning Committee has been working on with local Affirmation groups. Study and discussion of Affirmation's goals and purpose will be part of this theme.

Weekend activities include an invitation from Hemenway's music director to join the Hemenway Choir in performing original music composed especially for the Affirmation weekend. On Friday night after the Opening Session, there will be a concert by Paula Berg, a local folksinger. On Saturday night, dinner, dancing and entertainment are planned, as well as visits to Chicagoland night spots. Also, plan on attending Sunday brunch after the church service with members of local Reconciling Congregations at a restaurant near the church. The cost is \$7.00 per person.



The registration form is on the back page of this newsletter and is due by Sept. 1, 1989. However, due to the possibility that this newsletter may not reach you until September 1 or later, if you plan on attending, please call and let us know as soon as possible so we may arrange housing for you. Call one of the numbers listed below **now** and mail in the registration form as soon as possible. Send your registration to:

Affirmation/Chicago
Box 1021
Evanston, IL 60204

or call Otis Thompson at [REDACTED] or Annette Oliver at [REDACTED]

Act now -- don't miss out on our trek to the future in the Windy City.

BY:

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Report of GCOM Committee to Study Homosexuality

The second meeting of the Committee to Study Homosexuality for the United Methodist Church was held July 31 - August 3, 1989 in Denver. This committee was formed at the General Conference held in 1988 to address issues concerning homosexuality and the United Methodist Church.

William Kent, an attorney in the Federal Public Defender's Office in Jacksonville, FL was appointed as the only gay man to the committee. He was unable to attend this meeting, but expects to attend future meetings.

Expert consultants from Good News and Affirmation will be brought in for presentation and discussion at the Committee's fall meeting.

The committee was grouped into seven interest areas: biblical, biological/medical, ethical, human relations/arts, psychiatric/psychological, sociological, and theological. Plans for study include reading 2-4 books plus articles in each subject area. Expert consultants from **Good News and Affirmation** will be brought in for presentation and discussion at the Committee's fall meeting.

Where Grace Abounds, a Denver non-profit counseling program made a panel presentation to the committee. The program is af-

filiated with **Exodus International**, a coalition of nearly 70 ministries that seek to help homosexuals change to heterosexual behavior. The panel included counseling staff and two persons who were involved in the homosexual lifestyle. They told of their personal journeys, their

The committee was grouped into seven interest areas: biblical, biological/medical, ethical, human relations/arts, psychiatric/psychological, sociological, and theological.

faith in God, and their program. The founder of the group, Mary Heathman, mother of a homosexual son and a Quaker, emphasized the primary goals of her group are "accepting homosexuals as they are and counseling them about emotional conflicts rather than promoting a program targeted to change homosexual behavior." Following the panel there was small group sharing with the members of the committee.

The committee's next meeting is set for Nov. 30 - Dec. 3; the site has not yet been selected. Three meetings will be held in 1990: March, August, and November. In 1991, two meetings are scheduled for preparing the report to the GCOM, who will in turn, report to the General Conference in 1992.

-- *Jeanne Barnett, member
Committee to Study Homosexuality*



Bylaw Change?

There is a possibility that a decision to amend the bylaws will be made at the Fall 1989 meeting. Please be prepared to discuss any changes.



files to RCP, P.O. Box 23636, Washington, DC, 20026.

The United Methodist Reporter, the unofficial newspaper of the United Methodist Church, ran a brief story on the Reconciling Congregation Program in June. The article also covered "Transforming Congregations," a new program begun in northern California this past winter. This program, seemingly modeled after the RCP, in that it seeks to change persons' sexual orientation. While the RCP and Affirmation appreciates the attention finally given to the Reconciling Congregation Program, it is disturbing that the national reconciling movement was equated in any way with the fledgling and questionable "Transforming Congregation" Program.

RCP to meet February 1990

The National Advisory Committee of the Reconciling Congregation Program (RCP), which is founded and partially funded by Affirmation, will be meeting August 18-20 in Chicago, hosted by Albany Park UMC.

The major agenda item of the weekend meeting will be to finalize plans for the Convocation of Reconciling Congregation next February in San Francisco. Members of the Advisory Committee have been working in task forces during the past few months to arrange Convocation workshops, secure keynote speakers, arrange for local hospitality, and plan worship services for the weekend. The plans will be integrated into a final design for the Convocation and the official Convocation brochure will be mailed in

September to all Reconciling Congregations and *Open Hands*' subscribers.

The weekend agenda will also include: discussing a nomination process for selecting new persons to the committee, reviewing program finances, and general planning for the strengthening of the RCP movement. The Advisory Committee is comprised of RC members from around the country and representatives from the Reconciling Conferences.

A special task force from the Advisory Committee and Affirmation's Coordinating Committee will meet prior to the weekend to discuss the future relationship between the RCP and Affirmation.

ATTENTION Affirmation Camera Bugs!

Bring your snapshots of previous Affirmation meetings with you to Chicago. A photo-montage of our Affirmation history will be prepared by Christine Whiton during the weekend at Hemenway. You can give your snapshots to Christine at the Friday evening Opening Session.

Clearly mark the back of each photo with your name, date and place of meeting, and names of those shown in the photo. All photos will be returned to their owners at the end of the weekend.



You call this a Headline?

Coming up with headlines for articles is not as easy as some might think. The headline needs to be short summery of the article. Sometimes the headline can give more than one interpretation. Here are two are legitimate headlines.

Mom ponders approach to sexually active son

- from The Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette

Homosexual Loses Boy Scout Suit

- from The Press-Courier (Oxnard, Calif.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Envisioning Our Future

September 15 -17, 1989

Chicago, Illinois

Name _____

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Work Phone _____

Zip _____

Please check one of the following:



- ☐ I am coming to the Fall Affirmation meeting in Chicago, Illinois. My registration is enclosed.
(The deadline is September 1).
- ☐ I cannot come to the Fall Affirmation meeting in Chicago, but I am enclosing a contribution.

If you are coming to the Fall Affirmation meeting, please fill out the appropriate questions.

- ☐ I will need housing in a private home from _____ to _____
[Date] [Date]
- ☐ I prefer a non-smoking home.
- ☐ I am making my own housing arrangements.
- ☐ I am staying in a hotel and would like information on nearby hotels. I am arriving on _____
[Date]
- ☐ I am driving to Chicago and will be arriving on _____
[Date]
- ☐ I have special dietary, transportation, and/or housing concerns. Please list special needs below:

Variable Registration Fee: Student/fixed income/subsistence income	\$10
(Based on income)	
Up to \$15,000 a year	\$30
\$15,000 to \$30,000 a year	\$45
\$30,000 to \$50,000 a year	\$60
\$50,000 and above a year	\$75

For more information call:

Annette Oliver 
or
Otis Thompson 

Send this form to:

Affirmation/Chicago
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, Illinois 60204

Deadline for registration forms is September 1, 1989.
All forms must be received by this date!

Affirmation
P.O. Box 1021
116 Ridge Avenue
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60202-1021

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